DEPARTMENT OF NOTES, REVIEWS, ETC.

It is the purpose, in this department, to present from time to time brief original notes, both of methods of work and of results, by members of the Society. All members are invited to submit such items. In the absence of these there will be given a few brief abstracts of recent work of more general interest to students and teachers. There will be no attempt to make these abstracts exhaustive. They will illustrate progress without attempting to define it, and will thus give to the teacher current illustrations, and to the isolated student suggestions of suitable fields of investigation.—[Editor.]

THE CLEVELAND MEETING

In accordance with the vote at Minneapolis, the meeting of the American Microscopical Society in affiliation with the A. A. A. S., at Cleveland Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, will be a business meeting purely. The days are so full of special scientific meetings and the interests of our membership are so varied that it seems unwise to add to the competing meetings. The members of the A. M. S. who have papers prepared are requested to offer them before the appropriate section of the American Association, or before the affiliated special societies of which they may be members.

It has been found impossible to hold together any considerable body of members for general meetings in the presence of the attractive special meetings in which the majority of our membership are interested. This is taken by some to indicate that we should not meet at all under the shadow of these special sections and societies,—but should meet separately at some other period. The history of the last few years in which separate meetings of the A. M. S. were attempted tend to show, however, that the meeting of a society of such inclusive interests can no longer bring large numbers of members half way across the continent. Furthermore, scientific societies are too numerous now to allow us to expect such large accessions to our membership at the place of meeting, as was formerly the case.

These are some of the considerations that have led the present Secretary to conclude that it is wisest, at least for the present, to devote the time and money of the society to building up the *Transactions* as a journal of general interest, which shall bring to all the members more matter than would ordinarily be presented

at a meeting. If the members wish the renewal of summer meetings this can be carried out after the society regains its full strength.

In this connection, it may be pertinent to suggest that, in the opinion of the Secretary, the Microscopical Societies of more local character should be able to carry on successful meetings. These may be state or city societies. There is no reason why really live, valuable meetings for practical discussions and demonstrations cannot be had under these circumstances. The number of people who use the microscope and are interested in its application is greatly increased. There are more indeed in a single city than were found in the whole nation when this society was organized. The A. M. S. stands ready to serve such local societies in any way possible. Indeed it seems as tho an effective division of labor would be: (1) the national society to furnish a magazine of microscopy and microscopic research; and (2) state and city societies to furnish the personal contacts and stimulus thru meetings. Some such broad affiliation of national and local societies ought to be possible, and mutually supportive.

The policy of concentrating the strength of the society on its Quarterly *Transactions* has, during the last two years, undoubtedly given the society the best growth it has ever had in the same length of time. None of this growth has been the artificial growth due to temporary and complimentary members secured at the place of meeting. The present growth is of individuals and libraries that find in the *Transactions* a promise of something they need. In the list of names when the present Secretary took charge there were 232 members and 33 subscribers. Of these 58 have died or definitely resigned during the last two years. Of the remainder, 36 have paid no fees. This leaves a net membership of 138 from the original list. Three subscribers have discontinued. Seventeen new subscribers have been added, making a total of 47. A total of 161 members and subscribers has been added. There are now listed 271 paying members, or 318 members and subscribers. We have not yet been able to reach the self-supporting membership of 400 for which we have been hoping, but we have more than made good the earlier total membership. Two more years of growth equal to the past two will give an income sufficient to print the *Transactions* on a scale that will be a credit to the society and to science.

The Secretary feels that this result can be quickly attained by the sympathetic efforts of the members to extend information of the society and its *Transactions* among their friends. The Secretary cannot do this. The individual member can.

MIMICKING THE AMEBOID AND STREAMING MOTIONS OF PROTOPLASM

Robertson (Science Oct. 4, 1912) reports a method of mimicking the motions of protoplasm in the Ameba which he claims is very striking and instructive.

1. *Ameboid Motions.* Prepare a 10% solution of camphorgum in benzol. Color this deeply by the addition of Sudan III or Scharlach R. Place a drop of this mixture upon the surface of water. Thru the alterations of surface tension, lengthy and irregular "pseudopodia" are rapidly thrown out and withdrawn.

2. *Streaming Motion.* Add to portions of the solution described above olive oil or other viscous liquid, and place drops of the mixture on water as before. By increasing the amount of the oil the alterations of form are less and less rapid; but the internal streaming is energetic and striking.

RELATIONS OF BLOOD TO SIZE IN RABBITS

Boycott (Jour. Path. and Bact., April, 1912) summarizes the results of studies on the relation of the size of rabbits to growth and quality of blood therein, as follows:

1. Small rabbits are found to have a larger percent of haemoglobin, and more blood and haemoglobin in proportion to body weight, than large rabbits.

2. Male rabbits appear to have more haemoglobin per unit of blood than the female.

3. After the suckling period, rabbits have at least haemoglobin relatively to the body weight when it weighs 1.5 to 2 kilos.

4. A rabbit of 2 kilos has about 6.5 c.c. oxygen capacity and about 45 c.c. of blood per kilo of body weight.

CULTURE OF MALARIAL PLASMODIA

Bass and Johns (Jour. Exp. Med. Oct. 1912) report the results of successful cultures of malarial plasmodia *in vitro*. This relates to the asexual cycle, tho the authors found suggestions of the sexual.